

Under 7 & 8 Competition Rules

Matches for under 6, 7 and 8 players shall comprise a six-a-side competition. Rules to apply for these matches are:-

- A. The duration of matches will be 15 minutes each way for Under 6 and Under 7 age groups, and 20 minutes each way for Under 8 age groups, all with a half time break of 5 minutes.
- B. At any time, a team must have no more than 6 players and no fewer than 4 players on the field, one of whom must be a goalkeeper.
- C. Any number of substitutes may be used in a match provided that they are registered players with that Club. A player who has been playing earlier and been replaced is allowed to return to the field as a substitute for another player. The referee must be advised of all substitutions. All substitutions are to take place from the half-way line. Players must leave the field before being substituted.
- D. The coach or their nominee (i.e. one person per team) may run with the players on the field to coach and direct them providing that the conduct of the match is not disturbed.
- E. The off-side rule will not be applied.
- F. There shall be no direct free kicks (a goal cannot be scored from a free kick unless another player touches it), and no penalty kicks.
- G. Kick-offs shall be taken from the spot in the middle of the halfway line. If the ball is not kicked forward before being kicked by another player, then the kick-off is re-taken by the same team. If the player taking the kick-off kicks the ball a second time before it is kicked by another player, then a free kick is awarded to the opposing team. Players from the opposing team must be at least 5 metres from the ball when a kick-off is being taken.
- H. If the attacking team kicks the ball out over the goal line other than between the goalposts, then a goal kick is awarded to the defending team. Goal kicks may be taken from any point on the semicircle. All players, other than the player taking the kick (and the goalkeeper if someone other than the goalkeeper is taking the kick) must be at least 5 metres from the ball when a goal kick is being taken (otherwise the kick is re-taken).
- I. When the defending team kicks the ball out over the goal line other than between the goalposts, then a corner kick is awarded to the attacking team. Corner kicks shall be taken from the point marked on the goal line, 5 metres from the semicircle. A goal may be scored direct from a corner kick.
- J. When a free kick is being taken, all opposing players must be at least 5 metres from the ball. If a free kick is awarded to the attacking team within 5 metres of the goal area or inside the goal area, the ball is taken back to a point 5 metres from the goal area (so that defenders

may stand just outside the semicircle).

- K. Only the goalkeeper is allowed in the goal area at any time, except for a defending player taking a goal kick or free kick. The player taking the kick (if not the goalkeeper) must vacate the goal area immediately after the kick is taken. If the ball is kicked from within the goal area by an attacker, the defending team is awarded a free kick from the semicircle. If the ball is kicked from within the goal area by a defender (other than the goalkeeper), the attacking team is awarded a free kick from 5 metres outside the semicircle (as in Rule J above). However, a player unavoidably running into the semicircle on follow-through shall not be penalised provided they do not kick the ball whilst in the semicircle.
- L. Normal FIFA Rules apply with regard to throw-ins and deliberate fouls.
- M. Unless otherwise stated above, the normal FIFA Rules shall apply.
- N. Field Dimensions: When using a field separate to splitting a full size field, field size is to be Min: 45x25 metres to Max: 55x35 metres.
- O. Field Markings: The field has a half way line. The centre of the field has a spot in the middle of the half-way line. The goal box has a 5-metre radius semicircle. Corner kicks are marked 5-metres from the goal semicircle.
- P. Goal Dimensions – (Internal): Goal posts to have a 1.5-metre high post with a 3-metre opening.
- Q. Under 7 and Under 8 – These play a modified soccer (six-a-side) and can register up to nine (9) players per team. There are two categories in each zone (A and B). A is for experienced, returning and stronger teams. B is for those teams where the majority of players are new. Note there are no records / results kept in these age groups and there are no finals. There are carnival days at the end of the season though.